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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on Prevention of
Discrimination and Protection
of Minorities
Forty-fourth session
Agenda item 13

ENCOURAGEMENT OF UNIVERSAL ACCEPTANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS

Draft resolution submitted by Mr. Bossuyt, Mr. Boutkevitch, Mr. Despouy, Mr. Eide, Mrs. Forero Ucros, Mr. Guissé, Mr. Ul-Hakim, Mr. Hatano, Mr. Heller, Mr. Joinet, Mr. Khalifa, Ms. Ksentini, Mr. Maxim, Mr. Merrills, Mr. Ramadhane, Mr. Saboia, Mr. Sachar, Ms. Warzazi and Mr. Yimer

1992/-. Encouragement of universal acceptance of human rights instruments

The Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities,

Recalling its resolutions 1 B (XXXII) of 5 September 1979, 19 (XXXIV) of 10 September 1981, 1982/3 of 7 September 1982, 1983/27 of 6 September 1983, 1984/36 of 30 August 1984, 1985/5 of 27 August 1985, 1988/30 of 1 September 1988, 1990/24 of 31 August 1990 and its decision 2 (XXXIII) of 11 September 1980 on the encouragement of universal acceptance of human rights instruments,

Having considered the note by the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1992/27) relating to communications with Member States concerning the ratification of, or accession to, the relevant human rights instruments, and developments in that regard since the forty-second session of the Sub-Commission,

Convinced that attaining universal acceptance and implementation of international instruments in the field of human rights is of primary importance for the protection and promotion of human rights,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the ratification or accession by several States to the instruments contained in the list of human rights instruments under paragraph 1 of its resolution 1 B (XXXII), as complemented by its resolutions 1982/3, 1983/27, 1984/36 and 1985/5;

2. Decides to include the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, in the list of human rights instruments;

3. Expresses its appreciation for the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights by which ratifications of, or accessions to, the international instruments on human rights have been accelerated;

4. Requests the Secretary-General further to promote the programme of advisory services so that practical assistance in the process of ratification and implementation of international instruments on human rights is available for those States which indicate a need for such assistance;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to renew the invitation for submission of information contained in his earlier notes verbales to the Governments of Member States which have not yet replied to those communications, making particular reference to the human rights instruments to which those Governments have not yet become party and drawing the attention of each Government to the instruments which it has already signed but not ratified;

6. Also requests the Secretary-General to continue holding informal discussions concerning prospects for ratification of human rights instruments with government delegations on such occasions as the sessions of the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights, priority being given to the instruments prepared by the Commission on Human Rights such as the

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the First Optional Protocol to that Covenant, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

7. Further requests the Secretary-General to continue to inform the Sub-Commission, as appropriate, on his endeavours under the present resolution and to update the table containing a country-by-country record of developments which have taken place in connection with the ratification of, or accession to, the human rights instruments included in the terms of reference of the Sub-Commission;

8. Decides to request the Chairman of the Sub-Commission to appoint, prior to its forty-sixth session, one of its members to report to it at that session on information received under the present resolution, to analyse difficulties impeding ratification of, or accession to, the above-mentioned instruments and to assess the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights with a view to further encouraging universal acceptance of human rights instruments;

9. Decides to continue consideration of the agenda item "Encouragement of universal acceptance of human rights instruments" at its forty-sixth session and at subsequent alternate sessions of the Sub-Commission.